From: mike stephen
To: microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov
Date: 1/23/02 2:37pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Please I beg of you to consider the separation of
hardware and software from all sales of computer
systems. This will put competition back in the
operating system arena. Right now when you go to a
store to buy a computer it already has windows
preinstalled. The customer has not any choice but to
buy it with windows preinstalled. Even if he/she
wants to run OS/2, or Linux, he/she must pay for a
copy of Windows then delete it and install their
preferred operating system. This is double paying for
two operating systems when only one is needed.

Separating the two purchases (the computer hardware as
one,, and the operating system as the other) will help
to level the field from pricing fluctuations that
Microsoft currently uses to maintain the position in
the marketplace. A company like Compaq can be forced
to "get into line" with what Microsoft wants them to
do and as a result can enjoy a significant discount on
purchases on Microsoft product. Separating the costs
would put an end to this. If computer users want to
have windows on the machines they bought, then they
can purchase a copy at the time of purchasing the
hardware (or later if they choose) and install it when
they take the purchase home.

When we buy a car today we all realise it needs
gasoline to run. We all know we are going to buy
gasoline. However we buy a car from a car dealer,
then we choose to buy gasoline from any number of
vendors. In the computer world, it is like buying a
car and buying prepaid gasoline to run the car. We
might want to buy gasoline from our chosen vendor, but
we already have paid for gasoline at the time we
purchased the car. This method makes no sense and
microsoft has screwed the marketplace with poor
quality software that is both poorly designed and
poorly written.

Please put a modicum of competition back into the
marketplace.

Separate the hardware and software sales.

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